ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of items is tracked using a distributed network of gates, each having a gate-identification. Each item is provided with an identifier for specifying an item-identification of the item and a tracking-station-identification of a tracking station related to the item. Whenever one of the items approaches one of the gates, the item-identification of that item and the tracking-station-identification of the tracking station related to the item are obtained from the identifier of the item via that gate. The item-identification of the item and the gate-identification of the gate are then communicated to the tracking station identified by the tracking-station-identification obtained from the identifier of the item such that the item can be tracked as it moves amongst the gates.